Staff Selection Board.

(2) **MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI** (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*) : This Council recommends to the Government that a Staff Selection Board be constituted so that recruitments to public service may be made through this body.

RESOLUTION *re*: COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. R. Raman Pillai.

Resolution re Committee on Administrative Expenditure.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): ഞാൻ എനിക്ക് പ്രമേയത്തെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കട്ടെ.

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee, with an elected non-official majority, be appointed at an early date to enquire into and report on the means of curtailing the administrative expenses".

PRESIDENT: I am afraid the member does not know English according to his own declaration. Please note that permission given to the member to speak in Malayalam and to reply in Malayalam is withdrawn.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): The resolution before me is in English, and therefore I read it.

PRESIDENT: The concession allowed to him to speak in Malayalam is withdrawn.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I rise to a point of order. Is it not the duty of the Legislative Department to see that in the case of members who are allowed to speak in Malayalam, the resolution is placed before them in that language?

PRESIDENT: No, the language of the Council is English.

MR. G. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I rise to a point of order. A member might know to read English but he may not be able to express himself so well in English.

PRESIDENT: I know the member is quite capable of expressing himself in English.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Sir, I move this resolution for the consideration and acceptance of this House. I am not a very fluent speaker in English and I may make several mistakes. My friends and visitors may laugh at me; but I do not care anything about that. The Government have placed before me the resolution in English, so I read it in English and it is considered to be irregular by the President and I cannot question it.

In my opinion, the administrative expenses of the Government have become very great. I do not use the words which I had originally used in the resolution, certain words being expunged by the order of the President. How the administrative expenses have become very great, is a very difficult proposition for a man of poor abil[illegible]self to bring to the heart of the Council. Several departments have employees more than necessary.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know the percentage of the expenditure in Travancore?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I think the administrative expenses is almost 80 lakhs of rupees and the revenue is about 240 lakhs. So it may be about 33 per cent.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): What is the expenditure in Cochin?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I did not look into that. The President has ordered that things going on in other countries should not be quoted here. So I did not think it necessary to waste all my time over books of other countries.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know what is exactly the meaning the member attaches to "administrative expenses"?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): What I mean is, the salary paid to Government officers—

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Including teachers and doctors?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I pleaded much for increasing the pay of the teachers of elementary schools. From that it is reasonable to suppose that the Council may consider that I am not for decreasing the pay of every official in Travancore. I take this opportunity to give my hearty thanks to the members of the Finance Committee and the Government, who have done their best to increase the pay of the poor teachers and alleviate their condition as far as practicable. We, Indians, are said to be people having no intellectual back-ground. But a man having no intellectual back-ground at the head of the Education Department was able to find opportunity to advise Government in a way, to improve the pay and prospects of the Vernacular School teachers in Travancore.

I take first the Judicial Department. I have been a Government servant in the Judicial Department for over 18 years and I had the good fortune of only working an hour a day without leaving any arrears in any section wherever I was put in. No superior of mine got any opportunity to take me to task for leaving arrears in my section. At present there are more employees than what is needed. The copyists in the Judicial Departments are roaming here and there without doing any work at all. In certain courts where there are 15 and 20 copyists, the work turned out by them, if we look into the statements which we may get from those courts, could be turned out by half their number. Similarly, Peons and Amins waste their time without doing ample work.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In regard to copyists, is there not a minimum work fixed for each copyist?

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MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): If statements are got and looked into, it will be seen that they do not copy out at least on an average 10 pages a day.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is that below the minimum?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Yes, below the minimum. Several copyists are doing work in other sections where lazy clerks are employed. Then going higher up in the ladder, I have seen the majority of Judges come to court only after 12 o' clock. At least half of them come after 12 o' clock.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Is the member aware that Judicial officers have a good deal of office work to do at home?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I know that. I was assisting several of them. Several of the Judges and Munsiffs do not do sufficient work.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the member advocate retrenchment in the number of teachers?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I will advocate to reduce the number and not pay?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the member reduce the number of doctors in this State?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): No.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Would you have their pay reduced?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): No, I will not.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Will the member exclude the Medical Department as being outside the scope of the resolution?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Yes.

As regards the Revenue Department, the Devaswom work has been taken away from the Tahsildars. Criminal work is also taken away now. The Tahsildars have only to look after the collection of revenue and the L. R. M. work. Such being the case, I do not see the necessity of a Supervisor and a Deputy Supervisor in Taluk Cutcherries. Proverthicars and Accountants, and if necessary some temporary accountants in addition to them, will be quite sufficient for the work.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is it not necessary for a Tahsildar to inspect each and every *poramboke* land and examine every *puduval* application?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Yes.

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MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Has the member any idea of how many applications come in on an average every month in a taluk?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I do not know exactly the number of applications coming in. I know that several are coming in.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Will the member take it from me that from 4,000 applications or so, 1,000 are *puduval* applications?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): I cannot but believe what the Head of the Department says.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): In addition to that, is the member aware that there are also *poramboke* applications to be inspected by the Tahsildar?

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Yes.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Is the member aware that a Tahsildar has also to be in charge of the treasury?

PRESIDENT: I am sorry that you are cross-examining him. You can say all that in your remarks.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): The criminal work of the Tahsildar has been taken away. Now several of the Tahsildars have no treasury charges. A few of the Tahsildars at least will have treasury charge, they being the treasury officers. Even though Tahsildars may have some responsibility, the full responsibility lies with the treasury officer.

As regards the Police Department I do not see any necessity for the existence of the Assistant Superintendents of Police. In Tanjore the learned Commissioner may say how many Police Superintendents are there? If I were to quote what occurs in other countries I will be stopped from arguing; so I am not going to speak about that. Tanjore is a district almost equal in extent to Travancore.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Is the member aware that Tanjore is *about* one half of Travancore? I am a Tanjorean.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*); More than half.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is not *equal* to Travancore.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Almost equal.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): *Almost* equal is not half.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): So far as the Police Administration is concerned, Tanjore is almost equal in extent to Travancore. Tinnevelly, I think, is greater than Travancore. The existence of A. S. P.'s is only a hindrance to the work as far as I know. Several of the Police Inspectors are graduates and graduates-in-law. They are

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responsible officers and they will do their duty. There are enough District Superintendents of Police to supervise those Inspectors. If the A. S. P.'s are reduced there will be a good saving to Government.

Similarly, if we go to the Excise Department a set of Sub-Inspectors were recently created. This was done at the instance of the late Excise Commissioner. That also, I think, is quite unnecessary, and more than what is wanted. There are Assistant Excise Commissioners and Inspectors in addition to the Excise Commissioner. Some of the Assistant Excise Commissioners also may be done away with. The Excise Commissioner is able to supervise the whole State and if we pass on to each and every department there is sufficient scope for reducing the expenses. I request only for the constitution of a committee. I do not go into the details of the expenses and also details of the profit which we may get by appointing a committee to enquire into the condition and to make a report. With these few words, I commend the resolution for the consideration and kind acceptance of the Council.

PRESIDENT : The last speaker seems to be labouring under a complete misapprehension in respect of the statement he made that I have passed a ruling that nothing happening in outside countries could be mentioned in debates in this House. That is wholly incorrect. This is what I said: "That the reference in that particular case was irrelevant to that discussion" and when the member, Mr. Asan, asked for a ruling I believe my reply was this: "It is not a matter on which I could give a definite ruling in absolute terms; it will depend on each case." That is the ruling to the relevancy or irrelevancy.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*) : I thank you, Sir, for the statement.

PRESIDENT : I want to remove the misapprehension. I wish every member could have understood this. Relevancy or irrelevancy of happenings in other countries will depend upon the particular context and circumstance in which discussion is taking place. In other words, I reserve a complete discretion.

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE (*Minachil cum Devicolam*) : സർ, മി: രാമൻപിള്ള ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഈപ്രമേയം ഭരണസംബന്ധമായ ചിലവുകളുടെ നിയന്ത്രണത്തെപറ്റി അന്വേഷിച്ചുറിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നതിനു അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ ഭൂരിപക്ഷമടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്നു ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു ശുപാർശ ചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നാണു്. ഭരണസംബന്ധമായ ചിലവുകളിൽ, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളചിലവു വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുഎന്നുള്ളതു് നാട്ടിൽ പൊതുവെ അറിയാവുന്നതായ ഒരു വാസ്തവമാണു്. മി: രാമൻപിള്ള പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയതു ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ, ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ

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[Mr. A. C. Kuriakose.]

വരവിൽ നൂ ശതമാനത്തിൽ അധികം ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിനായ ചിലവാക്കിവരുന്നതു ന്യായമല്ല; അതിനെ കുഴിയുന്നിടത്തോളം നിയന്ത്രിച്ചു, ഈ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവിനെ കുറവാക്കി, ഭരണക്രമത്തിനു ഹാനിവരാതിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു ഘടനയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടസംഗതികൾ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നതിനു, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അടങ്ങിയ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണ് മി: രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശത്തിന്റെ പ്രധാനഭാഗമെന്നു ഞാൻ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സകലപരിസ്ഥിതികളും ഹേതുഭ്രതൻറെന്നു പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി സമ്മതിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതും, ഈ രാജ്യവാസികളുടെ സ്ഥിരമായ സുരണയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ശ്രീമൂലം തിരുനാൾ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യഭാരം ആരംഭിച്ചപ്പോൾ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഒട്ടുകുണ്ടായിരുന്നവരവിൽ തുലോം കൂടുതലാണ് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു. ആ മഹാരാജാവു രാജ്യഭാരം ചെയ്തിരുന്നകാലത്തു നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു ധാരാളം വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആവരവിൽ, നിസ്സാരമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു തുകയിൽ കൂടുതൽവരത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഒരു ചിലവാണ്, ശമ്പളം വകയ്ക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ അന്നുചിലവുചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നതെന്നും അറിയാം. ആരാജഷ്ിയുടെ ഭരണംതുടങ്ങി ൪൨ സംവത്സരത്തിനിടയിൽ ആരംഭത്തിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നതുകയിൽ നിന്നു തുലോം വലുതായ ഒരുതുക ശമ്പളംവകയ്ക്കു ചിലവാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിനുശേഷം, രാജ്യത്തിൻറെനന്മയ്ക്കും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനുമായി, ആരാജഷ്ിയുടെ നിരീക്ഷണത്തിൻറെയും പരീക്ഷണത്തിൻറെയും ഫലമായി, അവിടത്തെ കരുണാതിരേകത്താൽ ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥാപനമാണ് ഈ ജനപ്രതിനിധി സഭ. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു ജനപ്രതിനിധി സഭയിൽനിന്നും, ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മുതലിനെ സംരക്ഷിച്ചു, ചിലവുകൾ നിയന്ത്രിച്ചു, രാജ്യത്തിൻറെക്ഷേമത്തിനുപയുക്തമായവിധത്തിലുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു, നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പ്രതിപത്തി കാണിക്കണം. ഇതിനെ പുരസ്കരിച്ചു ആലോചിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ൪൨ വർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ആദായത്തിൽനിന്നും തുലോം വലുതായതുക പ്രതിവർഷവും അനുവദിച്ചു് ആണ്ടുതോറുമുള്ള ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർക്കയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സംഖ്യവർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു് ഒട്ടും ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

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ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ചിലവിനു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിർബ്ബന്ധിതമാകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളോടു ആലോചിച്ചു അവർക്കു സങ്കടക്കരമല്ലാത്തവിധത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ആദായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു ഇടയാകുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ക്ഷേമം ദൂരമല്ലാത്ത ഒരു ഭാവിയിൽ ഏതൊരുനിലയിലേയ്ക്കു നയിക്കപ്പെടുമെന്നുള്ളതും പ്രധാനമായി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതായ ഒരു വിഷയമാണ്. ഈ നിലയെ പരിഗണിച്ചു ആലോചിച്ചുനോക്കുമ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയം ഈ സഭയുടെ ഗാഢമായ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു യോജിച്ചതാണ്. അതിനാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദമായി പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): സർ, മി: രാമൻപിള്ള ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ രാമൻപിള്ളയുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു അനിയന്ത്രിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശത്തിന്മേലാണു ഈ പ്രമേയം ഇവിടെ ഹാജരാക്കീട്ടുള്ളതെന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടാതെ അവരുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണു അദ്ദേഹം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു്.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): പ്രമേയം ഒരു കമ്മിറിയെനിയമിക്കുന്നതിനാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): പ്രമേയം ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിനു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുന്നു ഒന്നാണെന്നറിയാം. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലായതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സംഖ്യ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നു എൻെറ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. ആ ഭാഗത്തെപറ്റിത്തന്നെ ഒന്നു പുനരാലോചിക്കാം. പോലീസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഇന്നത്തെ നില നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഇനിയും പോലീസ്സൈന്യത്തിൻെറ സംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിൻെറ സ്ഥിതി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ ന്യായമായ രീതിയിൽ വ്യാജം നടക്കാതെ ഇരിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിലും കൂടുതൽ ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു കാണാം. ജൂഡിഷ്യൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ മുൻസിഫന്മാർ ശരിയായവിധത്തിൽ ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല

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[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

എന്നും അവരുടെ സംഖ്യ ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലാണ് എന്നും എന്റെ മാന സ്നേഹിതൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. മുൻസീഫന്മാരുടെ ജോലിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു എനിക്കു നേരിട്ടു പരിചയമുണ്ടു. ഇന്നു പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ കൂടുതൽ ജോലിചെയ്യുന്നും, കൂടുതൽ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടനുഭവിക്കുന്നും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു മുൻസീഫന്മാർ മാത്രമാണ്. രാവിലെ ഒമ്പതുമണിമുതൽ തുടങ്ങി രാത്രി ഏഴു മണിവരെ അവർ ജോലിചെയ്യണം. കച്ചേരിക്കു സാധാരണ ഏഴു മണിക്കാണവരിക. അതു കഴിഞ്ഞവരെ വീട്ടിൽ ഇരുന്നു ജോലി ചെയ്യണം. അതുമീസിൽവന്നാൽ വൈകുന്നേരം നാലു മണിവരെയും ചിലപ്പോൾ—ഇതു് അവർക്കു അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയല്ല—അതിനുശേഷവും ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. വീട്ടിൽ ചെന്നാൽ രാത്രി ഏഴു മണിവരെയും ജോലിചെയ്യണം. ഈ അവസ്ഥതന്നെയാണു ജഡ്ജിമാർക്കും ഉള്ളതും. ചുരുക്കം ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വല്ലമുൻസീഫന്മാർക്കും ജഡ്ജിമാർക്കും ജോലി കുറവാണൊ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി എനിക്കു നേരിട്ടറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. എങ്കിലും ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും ഇന്നുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം ജോലി ഉണ്ടെന്നാണു എന്റെ വിശ്വാസം.

ഇന്നത്തെ ഈ വായിച്ച ഭരണച്ചിലവിനെ കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിനു ഒരുമാർഗ്ഗമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളം കുറയ്ക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതുമാത്രമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിലേക്കായി ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി ആ ചിലവു കുടി നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു വഹിക്കേണമെന്നു എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണച്ചിലവുകളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കുന്നതിനു ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരുമാർഗ്ഗം നിർദ്ദേശിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിലേയ്ക്കു ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ സ്പെഷ്യലായിട്ടു നിയമിച്ചു, ഏതെല്ലാം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലാണു ആവശ്യത്തിലധികം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുള്ളതു, എവിടെയെല്ലാമാണു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു്, എന്നു റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ശുപാർശചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു പ്രമേയമായിരുന്നു എങ്കിൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെ സുലഭമായി സാധിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിക്കു ഒരു വലിയ സംഖ്യ ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി വേണ്ട അന്വേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ പ്രതിക്ഷേധിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. That large sums of money are required for the development

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of the country in various directions cannot but be conceded. It was but a couple of days ago that a pronouncement was made here by Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar that Government are intending to increase the pay of the vernacular school teachers and in that connection he told the House that the Government are also contemplating an increase of school fees for middle school boys and that they have also an idea of raising the pay of girls attending the schools.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): School fees.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I mean the school fees of girls attending the schools. I am sure the Government would not have entertained this idea of increasing the school fees of children but for the fact that they find themselves hard pressed for funds to meet these requirements. We know the economic condition of families that send their children to Vernacular Middle Schools. To think of increasing the school fees of such children means that the Government really want somehow or other to find out ways and means to meet these demands. The day before yesterday the Chief Secretary made a very candid admission in this House that, after all, we have not got anything like a Health Department in this State. The necessity for organising a department for health on a satisfactory basis cannot, by any means, be denied. An efficient Health Department has to be organised forthwith. We have been spending lots of money on education, but it is highly regrettable that that is a purely one-sided development without paying attention to the health of the people of the State. So, the necessity for organising a department like that has been recognised and it cannot any longer be put off. It was even mentioned here that certain very urgent things in connection with the outbreak of cholera have been omitted because we have not got a Health Department in this State. As for education itself even apart from the question of raising the pay of the low-paid schoolmasters there are several reforms which have to be brought into effect. There is the question of collegiate education and the establishment of a university. We want funds for that. Then there is the equally important question of the development of agriculture and industries in the land. Unemployment is staring us in the face and how to meet that very serious problem has to engage the consideration of the Government. We know that our Agricultural Department has now been in existence for about two decades, but when all is said the result of the work of that department has not been considerable. We have got a nominal Industries Department which, apart from publishing annual reports, is doing little for the benefit of the country. Sir, these departments can very well say that they are not given sufficient funds by the Government and there may be some truth in that. Whatever that may be, the Government will have to spend large amounts of money in these directions. There is the question of irrigation. A good deal has been talked of in this House about improving the irrigation tanks. That is a necessity which the Government have recognised and something has to be done in that

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[Mr. A. Thanu Pillai].

direction almost immediately. I merely point out certain directions in which the Government have to exert themselves and funds have to be found for these purposes.

There is another aspect of the matter, to be considered. There is the Excise Department where the Government will have to face a situation in which the revenues of the Department will be declining. No doubt, Government may say that prohibition is not their policy. But as the country advances in education and along with that as the morals of the people also become bettered we must expect a time when the excise revenues will go down; not only that, it ought to be the deliberate intention of the Government to get less and less of this revenue from drink and other intoxicants. So, we ought to curtail our expenditure as much as possible. Mr. Raman Pillai's resolution merely seeks for the appointment of a committee that will go into the whole matter and see whether we cannot effect retrenchment in administration. I fully see that in case there is no possibility whatsoever of doing anything substantial in that direction there will be no good arising out of a committee like that. So we have to see whether there are directions in which retrenchment can be effected. My position is that a good deal can be done in that direction. Sir, I propose to refer only to a few circumstances. To begin with, I would refer to certain very high appointments in the State. After all, our State is a small one. We have been spending larger and larger amounts of money year after year and getting certain officers for serving the Government in some of the departments from outside and that on a scale of pay which, really speaking, our State cannot afford to pay. I do not think that any man can tell a Travancorean seriously that this State today has not got men able to administer such departments as the Police, Engineering, and so forth. I have not got the least objection to the gentlemen now occupying these offices but what I say is that in the interests of Travancore we ought to see that these services are got rendered by the people for a scale of pay which Travancore can very well afford. There is also the other question as to whether the pay even of local officers who are holding certain appointments could not be reduced. I do not say that the present pay of the officers now actually in service should be reduced, but there will, I believe, be ample scope for reducing the pay of some of the higher appointments. There is nothing like uniformity so far as the pay of our officers is concerned.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether he has perused the Mysore Civil List?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not think that a perusal of the Mysore Civil List is necessary so far as the statements that I am making are concerned. Whatever may be the state of affairs in Mysore we are not going to be guided by what is obtaining there. They may pay more or they may pay less, but here we in Travancore have

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got only a certain amount of money available every year. We want to attend to the needs of the country. We have the sons of the soil, our own people, who, I believe, are efficient and able and who would be willing to serve the State. So, what obtains in Mysore or Baroda or Kashmir is none of our concern.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether all these things exist in Mysore, Baroda or Kashmir?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): They may exist. I want to see that, so far as my country is concerned, with what funds are available things are done efficiently and in the best interests of the State. That is my concern. Sir, there is a habit of comparing what takes place in Travancore with what is obtaining outside. Personally, I do not at all believe that, if the pay of some of our officers is regulated and a uniformity effected in that respect, efficient and able Travancoreans, whose services are required, would refuse to serve. Of course, the more the Government pay the more they will receive. If the pay is fixed on a reasonable scale—

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I suppose the converse also follows. The less the Government pay the less they will receive?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Does my friend say that a Travancorean will be ready to serve in Travancore for rupees three hundred if he can get rupees three thousand on the other side of the Ghats? I am sure my friend is aware that several Travancoreans are working in British India on a much higher salary than Travancore can afford to pay.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I may in reply say that there are several Travancoreans who are receiving a much smaller pay in British India than certain Travancoreans who are serving in Travancore. But would any one seriously propose that because certain officers are paid very highly in British India we should bring into line our scales of pay with those existing in British India?

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): Does my friend remember that I based my question on the basis of patriotism which he urged and asked whether Travancoreans will patriotically serve the country for a much smaller sum than that which they may get outside?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): However patriotic the Travancoreans may be, every Travancorean cannot find work in Travancore. There is also that aspect of the matter. I am not saying that the pay of our officers should be cut down immediately or reduced to a very small amount. The question has to be investigated. For similar work different persons are paid differently. There is absolutely no uniformity now. I may point out cases where for practically similar work different persons are paid differently. Certainly uniformity can be arrived at and saving effected thereby.

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PRESIDENT: You have gone beyond your time.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There are also certain other directions in which retrenchment can be effected.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): With these words I support the motion.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I rise to support the motion brought forward by Mr. Raman Pillai. Administrative expenses can be reduced either by reducing the salary of the present incumbents or by abolishing certain posts. I am not of the opinion that the salaries of the present incumbents must be reduced. But I am of the opinion that certain posts are unnecessary in this country as things exist at present. In this Council itself on previous occasions, it has been represented that the post of the A. S. P. is unnecessary. It was once voted in this Council and it was passed that it was unnecessary. Again, on a subsequent occasion it was taken and it was passed that the post is necessary. On another occasion with regard to the post of Income Tax Inspectors also there was a debate and I do not know how it terminated. Anyhow, from my experience, I will say that the post of the Income Tax Officers is not necessary, because to do the duty of the Income Tax Officers there are the Magistrates, there are the Division Assistants and there are the District Magistrates. They would be quite sufficient, especially when the Tahsildar and the higher officers have been relieved of many of the duties which they had to discharge formerly. In the Excise Department the Sub-Inspectors are unnecessary. That was also discussed in this Council. I must say that our Government are very fond of creating new departments. Last time, from the official side they wanted the Traffic Department but fortunately it was withdrawn. The Income Tax Collector's post has been created but it has not been brought into force. So we are safe. Regarding the Public Works Department I can suggest certain directions in which retrenchment can be effected. There is a Sub-Division office. It is not of much use as it exists at present. It serves only as a *via media* of correspondence between the Supervisor's office and the Executive Engineer's office. So, that establishment can be safely abolished. Then there is the Workshop.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): May I know if my friend knows that Sub-Division Officers draw cheques, check the measurement bills and pay the moneys only after the measurements are checked?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): But my submission is that all this can be done in the Executive Engineer's office also. If it is added to the Executive Engineer's office that would be quite sufficient. The Workshop is therefore unnecessary. Many of the functions of the Workshop have been taken away and given to other departments. So, I do not see any necessity for its

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further continuance. With these words I support the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, in supporting the motion of Mr. Raman Pillai I have to place before the House one or two points. In almost all the general Budget discussions we see that retrenchment policy is being advocated by many of the members. But whether through the influence of the non-official side or the official side—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the member is supporting the resolution against his conscience?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I do it according to my conscience.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I rise to a point of order. Whether a member is in order in asking another member whether he is supporting against his conscience?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): By way of personal explanation I may say that on a previous occasion the member said that he was forced to vote against his conscience.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): At times you do and I do. So, I do not say anything about the way.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I may correct the member. I never act against my conscience.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): My friend is just murmuring something behind and I cannot hear him. I just make only this suggestion. Fortunately, we have an experienced Educational Director and so far as revenue matters are concerned we have got experienced officers and in the other departments concerned there are also able officers. But there is always the cry from the non-official side that there should be retrenchment. There is also some truth in it. Now the passing of the Village Panchayat Regulation and the suggestions made therein would create ever so many non-official Magistrates, who would decrease the work of the magistracy. These recommendations are being made regarding the handing over of elementary education which would minimise the work of the Education Department, at least the supervision of the Assistant Inspectors and so on.

So far as the P. W. D. is concerned, where there are not the construction of many engineering works, it may be entrusted to Village Panchayats. In the Departments of Sanitation and Medical help, though not much to the desire of the department, something can be done in this direction. So, I propose that a Committee of all these members on the official side with the consultation of the non-officials would go a great deal in the way of retrenchment.

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MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): വില്ലേജ് പഞ്ചായത്ത് സിസ്റ്റം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ പോകുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, അതു നടപ്പിൽ വന്നശേഷം അതിന്റെ ഗുണം അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടു ചെയ്യുകയല്ലെ നല്ലത് ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): Eeven if we pass a resolution we are not going to have it at once.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ വിചാരിക്കാത്ത ഒരു റസല്യൂഷൻ പാസാക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ ?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): I do not understand the member's difficulty. Is the member asking a question? I support the resolution of Mr. Raman Pillai.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, this is a matter which has been discussed twice in this House five years ago. I may say that personally any suggestion for reducing the expenditure would be welcome in my department. At the same time, Sir, I must say that retrenchment or rather a review of the administrative expenditure can be of two sorts. One is something that might be left to be done with the ordinary machinery provided by the State and another is something that a special committee may be called upon to undertake in a critical situation. I wish to say that a review and examination by a Special Committee is not an ordinary remedy. It is an extraordinary remedy that must be applied if circumstances require and justify such a remedy. The mover of this resolution would have to show a *prima facie* case for the appointment of a special committee, to deal with this matter. A Special Committee, I might say, at the outset, would mean a great deal of initial expenditure to the State and I do not know whether my friend fully realises that a committee of officials and non-officials sitting at this work would have to sit continuously. It would not be enough if it sits a day or two in a week, or in a month and officials will have to be on special duty.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): What about the Salaries Committee which was last appointed and what was the initial expenditure there ?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I will come to that. The Officials and the non-official members will have to tour about and go into the innermost recesses. The mover said that as a clerk of the Judicial Department he had only an hour's work and as a member of the Committee he will be able to show where there are wastages in departments of which he is intimately aware. All these will require a deep going into of every detailed item of work with extensive tours involving large travelling allowances both to the officials and to the non-officials. In this matter the non-officials, if at all, are only treated better than the official members. Then Sir,

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there is no use of a committee unless every department previously prepares answers to the questions of the Committee and supplies the necessary materials to the Committee. It is a most important work. Then my friend, the Deputy President, asked me about the expenditure of the Salaries Committee. What I wish to say in regard to this Committee is that there will be very much more expenditure than is apparent on the surface of it. So, I want the House to realise that the total expenditure will be not merely the pay of the official members or the travelling allowance of the non-official and official members but also the cost of supplying data by the various departments. A Committee acting very vigorously would not be able to finish their investigation even within a year. The members can imagine what the cost of that Committee will be. I am saying these things in order that the House may ask themselves the question whether that is an expenditure which would be justifiable in the present position in Travancore. I do not mean—whether our finances would admit an expenditure of this type, but only ask whether our scale of salaries is out of all proportion to our revenue; for instance, in the matter of collection of revenue, what is the proportion of the administrative charges to the total expenditure? Are these so high as to call for such a special measure being brought into play at this time? The Salaries Committee made a great cut. In fact, I believe over 1,000 posts were reduced by them.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I suppose there was a preliminary investigation by an Efficiency Audit Officer before the Comittee proposed this reduction.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In all departments there was a sort of special investigation within the department. For this purpose I think it will be well if I give the House some figures. I do not want to bore the House with them but I shall confine myself to as little of details as possible. I will give only the general results. Take the principal heads of revenue. I ask, is our cost of collecting revenue higher than what Mysore or Madras have to pay for their revenue collection? I say we are collecting our revenue at a cheaper cost. The House might take my assurance for it. Once before a question was asked by a member at the Budget discussion whether our charges of collection of land revenue were not high. I said then that it was other way. You will find that our expenditure is substantially less than what is being incurred in British India. The figures in the Madras Budget are furnished in a somewhat different way from ours. To secure uniformity in percentage calculation, the necessary allowance should be made for this. We charge the pay of Dewan Peishkars and Assistants practically all to Land Revenue. In Madras they put it under general administration. Then again we are fortunate in our State in that we have not got any interest charges to pay. But most other places have to pay a heavy sum as interest charges and it must be a source of satisfaction to all of us that

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we only *receive* interest and that our public debt is really negligible and that we are making ample safeguards for repaying that money at the proper time.

I may proceed now to the charges which are classed under General Administration. Our expenses are very low indeed as compared with Madras or Mysore.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What would be the cost of administration in Indore?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figures of Indore here. But I will get the figures if the member wants. I assume, Sir, if you take the Palace Civil List and General Administration you will find the expenditure in Indore will be more. The expenditure on Palace in our State is, I believe, very much less than what it is even in a small State in North India.

PRESIDENT: They are not General Administration charges.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No. So much, Sir, about the cost of collecting our revenue and of General Administration. Then, the next question that I wish the House to ask themselves is, is the scale of salaries in Travancore really so high that it must be cut down? Some members said that the scale of salaries could very well be cut down. Perhaps the official outlook, they may say, on this matter is different from that of the non-officials. I may say with some experience of Travancore as well as outside, that the scale of pay is so low in Travancore that we have only to go and find out after an officer's retirement the exact position of his assets and liabilities, and how he is able to live after retirement. I need not draw any further conclusions but I would bring to your mind the utter inadequacy of pay for the superior services. I do not mean that you are just now called upon to consider an increase in their pay. But at this stage to say that the rate of pay is very high is something which is the reverse of truth. There is however one plausible justification for the view some members take. Perhaps it is because we do not have, unfortunately, a general Civil Service and that also may account for the various inequalities in pay which my friends have called attention to. These inequalities are receiving the attention of Government and the necessary data have been collected and the Government is not unmindful of it. I would ask the members to think for one moment what would be the position if we have a Civil Service in the State. Do they think that the scale of salaries which are now paid would be adequate or do they really consider that they will be too high if a Civil Service is established? Just now a man who starts as a clerk on Rs. 15 or 20, or 40, if he is particularly lucky to start in the Secretariat, takes 20 years before he gets Rs. 150 permanent and in the last 10 years of his service he serves in a high administrative

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office. Really we are not getting as much value as other countries which have a Civil Service and that is also why you find more people content with the salaries which they receive. A man starts on Rs. 40 and before his retirement gets Rs. 700. You must consider this with a broader view with reference to his equipment and experience at the end of his career as an official. I submit, Sir, that no case has been made out at all for reducing the scales of pay. The mover himself, I think, threw out a sort of assurance that it was not in his mind to tie down the scales of salaries. But I believe many of the supporters of the resolution did not follow that direction. They simply assumed that the scales of salaries in Travancore were very high.

As to economy in numbers, as my predecessor in office admitted in this House, that here and there some economy may be possible. There may be some cases as the member said, of men who may be doing only an hour's work. I submit, Sir, that after all such cases may be very few. I may say, Sir, that those will receive the attention of my department and of Government. But when you make a general charge, you are rather on ticklish grounds. Some attention has been called to some departments where a readjustment is said to be possible. These are all matters which may very well be considered by a decision on a resolution and it need not require a Committee, to investigate and to find out whether a clerk has got an hour's work to do and so on. Sir, I speak with some personal experience and have also done this sort of work myself. You cannot do this by a Committee sitting in the Huzur Secretariat but only by a travelling Committee. I suggest that a Committee is not required to deal with the abolition of Assistant Superintendents of Police, or the Sub Division Officers in the P. W. Department. These are matters which can be discussed on a specific resolution being brought to that effect and I am sure the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Engineer will place all the facts. If any member wants to study the question, I for my part or my department will only be too pleased to give every facility.

PRESIDENT: You are speaking for Government and not for your department.

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Government will be glad to give any facility that might be needed for accurate information in regard to any matters of detail that may be required by members in connection with these questions.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is there anything wrong in discussing these things?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not say that there is anything wrong in discussing these things. All that I say is that a Committee is not necessary for going into these matters.

Then, Sir, there is the ordinary machinery we have provided in our constitution where most of the matters are discussed by members, fortu-

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nately with a very intimate knowledge of details. Then, Sir, there is the Finance Committee where all new expenditure is reviewed before they are brought to the House. Even before the Finance Committee deals with this matter the Finance Department of Government conducts a more or less searching investigation to find out whether an item of expenditure proposed by a department is really justifiable or not.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the pay of the existing staff in the departments is reviewed by the Finance Committee?

MR. K. N. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There are occasions when it is reviewed and there is nothing against it to a certain extent. I know perhaps what the member is thinking. But, there are various ways by which members of the Finance Committee can bring these to the notice of Government and for the discussion in the House.

I wish to speak a word with regard to the further details of the financial machinery. I may say that it is declared to be the duty of the Audit Department to bring to the notice of Government every matter where any expenditure is really high or tending to be high. The Audit Department is charged with the duty of asking the question that a tax-payer is bound to ask, whether he gets the best value for his money. There may be short-comings; but that is the ideal we are trying to live up to. In the laboratory of my office, if I may use that metaphor, all these things are gone into with a view to seeing in what way expenditure can be reduced, where a re-adjustment could be made, and how we could ensure the happiness of the people and of the people in Government offices. With these words I request the mover, on a further consideration, not to press this matter to the vote at this stage.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Kottayam*): Sir, being a Malayalam speaker I was a little taken aback by the ruling from the Chair. So I was not able to bring out everything I had in mind. As suggested, I do not think it will be right on my part to press the resolution at this stage. Being almost satisfied with the reply given by the learned Financial Secretary I beg permission to withdraw my motion at present with a view to bring it after an year.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *Re*: INVESTIGATION OF USEFUL TANK-BEDS, TANKS AND CHANNELS.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:—

> This Council recommends to the Government to investigate and report about the unmber of tank beds, tanks and channels that may be made useful for irrigation in the State.

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